

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for authorizing a user terminal to communicate with a base station in a communication system, the user terminal including a transmitter for transmitting information to the base station, the method comprising:

determining if an authorization signal has been received at the user terminal within a specified period of time, the authorization signal authorizing the user terminal to communicate with the base station; and
disabling the transmitter of the user terminal providing that the authorization signal has not been received within the specified period of time.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

re-enabling the transmitter of the user terminal upon receipt of the authorization signal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining if an authorization signal has been received at the user terminal within a specified period of time, further comprises:

starting a timer to count for the specified period of time; and
determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving the authorization signal at the user terminal;

restarting the timer to count for the specified period of time; and permitting the user terminal to transmit information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the authorization signal.

- 5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein permitting the user terminal to transmit information further comprises:

permitting the user terminal to transmit information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the authorization signal until expiration of the specified period of time and non-receipt of a second authorization signal.

- 10 6. The method of claim 3, wherein determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time, further comprises:

providing a signal to disable the transmitter of the user terminal providing that the 15 specified period of time on the timer has expired; and disabling the transmitter of the user terminal.

- 20 7. The method of claim 3, wherein determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time, further comprises:

permitting the transmission of information from the transmitter of the user terminal to the base station providing it is determined that a second authorization signal has not been received and the specified period of time on the timer has not expired.

8. A device for communicating with a base station of a communication system, the device comprising:

a signal detector that determines if an authorization signal has been received from the base station within a specified period of time, the authorization signal authorizing the device to communicate with the base station;

5 a transmitter that transmits information to the base station; and

a controller that disables the transmitter of the device providing that the authorization signal has not been received within the specified period of time.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the device comprises a modem having a software component with software running thereon and a hardware component that includes the signal detector, transmitter and controller.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is capable of re-enabling the transmitter 15 upon receipt of the authorization signal.

11. The device of claim 8, further comprising:

a timer capable of counting for the specified period of time; and

wherein the controller determines if the authorization signal has been received at the 20 device prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the authorization signal is received at the device, and wherein the timer restarts to count for the specified period of time, and the controller permits the device to transmit information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the 25 authorization signal.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the controller further permits the transmission of information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the authorization signal until expiration of the specified period of time on the timer and non-receipt of a second 5 authorization signal at the device.
14. The device of claim 11, wherein the controller disables the transmitter providing that the specified period of time on the timer has expired.
15. The device of claim 11, wherein the transmitter is enabled for the transmission of information to the base station providing a second authorization signal has not been received at the device and the specified period of time has not expired on the timer.
16. The device of claim 8, wherein the device and the base station communicate with 15 each other over a radio communication channel.
17. The device of claim 8, wherein the device and the base station communicate with each other in accordance with a Global system for Mobile Communications (GSM) protocol.
- 20 18. An apparatus for authorizing a user terminal to communicate with a base station in a communication system, the user terminal including a transmitter for transmitting information to the base station, the apparatus comprising:
means for determining if an authorization signal has been received at the user terminal
within a specified period of time, the authorization signal authorizing the user 25 terminal to communicate with the base station; and

means for disabling the transmitter of the user terminal providing that the authorization signal has not been received within the specified period of time.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

5 means for re-enabling the transmitter of the user terminal upon receipt of the authorization signal.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for determining if an authorization signal has been received at the user terminal within a specified period of time, further comprises:

means for starting a timer to count for the specified period of time; and
means for determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time.

15 21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

means for receiving the authorization signal at the user terminal;
means for restarting the timer to count for the specified period of time; and
means for permitting the user terminal to transmit information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the authorization signal.

20

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for permitting the user terminal to transmit information further comprises:

means for permitting the user terminal to transmit information via the transmitter to the base station upon receipt of the authorization signal until expiration of the specified period of time and non-receipt of a second authorization signal.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein means for determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time, further comprises:

5 means for providing a signal to disable the transmitter of the user terminal providing that the specified period of time on the timer has expired; and
means for disabling the transmitter of the user terminal.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the means for determining if the authorization signal has been received at the user terminal prior to the timer expiring at the specified period of time, further comprises:

15 means for permitting the transmission of information from the transmitter of the user terminal to the base station providing it is determined that a second authorization signal has not been received and the specified period of time on the timer has not expired.

25. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparatus comprises a modem including a software component having software running thereon and a hardware component including the means for determining and the means for disabling.